

Serial No. 09/553,107 filed 04/20/00
Preliminary Amendment/RCE dated July 9, 2004
Attorney Docket No.: GJH-0018 (P1998J107D)

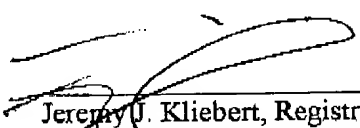
REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitation that at least a portion of the hydrogen-containing treat gas used in the first hydrodesulfurization stage is supplied from a source other than the present multi-stage process. Support for this amendment can be found on page 7, second paragraph, and in Figure 1 of the instant specification.

Based on the preceding amendment and remarks, the Examiner is requested to reconsider and withdraw all objections and rejections and pass this application to allowance. The Examiner is encouraged to contact applicants' attorney should the Examiner wish to discuss this application further.

Respectfully submitted:

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